

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact: Pat Shields, Area Management Biologist;	Aaron Dupuis, Asst. Area Management Biologist
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B	Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: (907) 262-9368	Fax: (907) 262-4709
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 27
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-28-13

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 27 closes set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Foreland Sections of the Upper Subdistrict until further notice. In addition, the drift gillnet fishery in the Central District of Upper Cook Inlet is closed within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River until further notice.

The sustainable escapement goal (SEG) for Kenai River late-run king salmon is 15,000 to 30,000 king salmon. As of July 25, the DIDSON sonar cumulative estimate of king salmon passage into the Kenai River was 9,365 fish. The projected sport harvest and catch and release mortality of king salmon in the Kenai River upstream of the sonar through the end of the season as estimated by an in-season creel survey is approximately 1,645 fish.

As directed by 5 AAC 21.359 *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, if, from July 20 through July 31, the projected inriver return of Kenai River late-run king salmon is less than 40,000 fish and the inriver sport fishery harvest is projected to result in an escapement below 15,000 king salmon, the department may restrict the sport fisheries in the Kenai River. Based on assessment of the inriver return and escapement, the projected escapement is less than the escapement goal and closure of the sport fishery is needed.

5 AAC 21.359(c)(4) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* further states that if the inriver sport fishery is closed, the commercial set gillnet fishery in the Upper Subdistrict shall be closed. In compliance with the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is now closed until further notice.

This closure does not apply to commercial fishing in the Kasilof River Special Harvest Area.